

precipitate removal of quantitative restrictions could undermine economic stability and the reform process.

After hearing the statements made by India and other Members of the WTO and the International Monetary Fund, the WTC Committee invited India to present a plan to eliminate the quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payments purposes and agreed to resume the consultations in the week beginning 2 June, 1997.

The consultations by the WTO Committee, are now scheduled to be resumed on 10-11 June, 1997.

[Translation]

Agreement with Phillipines

6547. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Phillipines has signed an agreement to extend economic cooperation in the field of small scale industries and pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Philippines have signed two Memoranda of Understanding for economic cooperation in the field of small scale industries and pharmaceuticals. The scope of Memorandum in small scale industries includes experience sharing for evolving policy frame-work for evolving policy frame-work for organised growth of SSI, information exchange, cooperation in areas of Human Resource Development, identification of projects, imparting training, exchange of specialists etc. The scope of memorandum in the area of pharmaceuticals includes manpower development/training, collaborative projects on medicinal plants and research and information exchange on new developments on drugs/other pharmaceuticals.

(c) Both the Momoranda of Understanding came into effect from the date of signing viz; 3rd March, 1997.

Sick Textile Mills in Gujarat

6548. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many textiles mills in Gujarat particularly in tribal areas have been sick for more than five years;

(b) if so, the mill-wise details of the performance of

these sick mills, the steps taken to make them viable, to upgrade them by modernisation during the last three years and the funds allocated for the above purpose;

(c) the details of proposed/finalised action plan to make these sick units viable; and

(d) the number of such units which are likely to be closed and the action plan regarding rehabilitation of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) As on 31.1.97, there were 63 textile mills registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Government has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills.

(d) BIFR has issued winding up notice in respect of 25 cases in case of Gujarat as on 28.2.97. Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund for workers rendered jobless due to closure of mills partially or permanently.

Chamber of Lawyers of Allahabad High Court

6549. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the efficient and effective dispersal of work, chambers are not available for all the lawyers registered with Allahabad High Court in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Registry of Allahabad High Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Handicrafts Fairs

6550. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicrafts fairs organised by the Government in the State of Orissa and Other States; and

(b) the criteria being followed for selection of craftsmen to participate in such fairs ?